



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

November 10, 1999

H.R. 3061

An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional two years the period for admission of an alien as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(S) of such act, and to authorize appropriations for the refugee assistance program under chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act

As cleared by the Congress on November 8, 1999

CBO estimates that H.R. 3061 would increase direct spending by a small amount, less than \$500,000 a year.

From September 1994 until September 1999, the Department of Justice was authorized to provide nonimmigrant visas (known as "S" visas) to certain individuals who assisted law enforcement agencies in prosecuting members of criminal or terrorist organizations. H.R. 3061 would renew this authority through September 13, 2001. Costs to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for administering these visas would be funded from fees collected by the agency. However, any additional spending by the INS would be negligible because the number of visas issued under H.R. 3061 would be limited to 250 for each fiscal year.

Although individuals with nonimmigrant visas are ineligible for most federal entitlement programs, these individuals could receive emergency Medicaid services. Enactment of H.R. 3061 could cause a small increase in direct spending for these services.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.